



SCARBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Department,
Area Health Office,
Northway,
Scarborough.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year ended 31st December, 1966.

TO:- The Chairman and Members of the Scarborough Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for 1966.

While considering the health statistics for the Rural District Council I am reminded of an expression used by athletes nowadays. They refer to an athlete's "personal best performance".

This year the Rural District Council has achieved a personal best performance in four categories of health statistics. The population figure, (9,220) and the birth rate, (23.4 per 1,000) are the highest recorded and the general death rate, (9.5) and the infant death rate, (10.9) are the lowest on record.

For good measure one can add that there were no notifications of Tuberculosis.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

W.G. EVANS,

M.A., M.B., B. Chir., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

The following Committees of the Scarborough Rural District Council are concerned with matters of public health viz:-

- Health and Housing Committee
- Sewerage, Drainage and Refuse Collection Committee.

In addition the Authority has a Representative on the Scarborough Area Local Health Sub-Committee (No. 10 Area of the North Riding of Yorkshire County Council).

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The mid-year population estimated by the Registrar-General at 9,220 shows an increase of 250 compared with 1965.

Births

A total of 184 LIVE and STILL Births gave a crude birth-rate of 19.7 per 1,000 population.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	76	99	175
Illegitimate	3	4	7
	<u>79</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>182</u>

Illegitimate LIVE Births per cent of total LIVE births = 4%.

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

Year	Population	Live & Still Births	LIVE Birth Rate, per 1000 population (Adjusted)	Deaths	Rate per 1000 population (Adjusted)	Infant Deaths	Rate per 1000 live Births	Still Births	Rate per 1000 live and still births
1963	8120	140	20.87	99	9.15	3	21.6	1	7.1
1964	8630	143	19.4	119	10.8	2	14.2	2	13.9
1965	8970	170	22.4	119	10.1	2	11.8	1	5.9
1966	9220	184	23.4	121	9.5	2	10.9	2	10.8
England & Wales (Provisional) 1965			17.7		11.7		19.0		15.4

Infant Mortality Rates:-

Total infant deaths per 1000 LIVE births	10.9
Legitimate " " " 1000 <u>legitimate</u> LIVE births	11.4
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 <u>illegitimate</u> live births	NIL
Neo-Natal Mortality Rates (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	10.9
Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 <u>total live</u> births)	10.9
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1000 total LIVE and STILL BIRTHS)	21.7
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	NIL
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	NIL

Deaths

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1
Malignant Neoplasm, breast.....	-	2
Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	3
Diabetes	3	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	16
Coronary disease, angina	19	10
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-
Other heart disease	9	11
Other circulatory disease	2	6
Influenza	1	-
Pneumonia	3	2
Bronchitis	6	-
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1	-
Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-
All other accidents	-	1
Total, all causes	<u>60</u>	<u>61</u>

Infectious Diseases

Notifications

Scarlet Fever	3
Measles	103
Whooping Cough	4
Food Poisoning	1
	<u>111</u>

National Assistance Act, 1948, S.47

Again it was not necessary during the year to take action on behalf of the Authority under this Section which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital or other institutions of persons in need of care and attention and not receiving it from any other person.

The following part of this Report was prepared by Mr. W.R. Ayrton, the Public Health Inspector, viz:-

Council Offices,
West Parade Road,
Scarborough.

The Chief Public Health Inspector's Report for the year ended
31. 12. 66

GENERAL REMARKS

The year with which this report is concerned was my first year as Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector and has been in some respects a year for evaluation and assessment of the current position with an attempt to formulate a future programme. However action on a number of matters, particularly sewage disposal and public cleansing, has been instituted and results should begin to show in 1967 and 1968.

Residential development of the area continued, although at a slightly slower pace than in immediately previous years. However, at the end of the year the indications were that development in 1967 would once again be considerable and at present it looks as though this trend will continue for some time. The development of residential estates in the larger villages fairly near to the Scarborough boundary has unfortunately tended to dilute the essential village identity and impose in its stead a dormitory character. This effect is, in my opinion, regrettable and I believe one of the causes of it to be that, for example, shopping facilities, have not kept pace with housing development. It is to be hoped that, in future development this can be to some extent rectified and an essential first step in this direction is the production of "village development plans" by the Planning Authority.

Preservation of existing village Main Streets and focal points is closely linked with this theme. Most of the cottages fronting village streets are of considerable age and, where renovation has not already been carried out, some will very soon be reaching the end of their useful lives. In a number of cases demolition and clearance is inevitable but, where possible, I believe it to be preferable, at least for the present time, to renovate and improve the properties with the aim of extending their useful lives. Implementation of the Improvement Grant Schemes is a very useful aid to this aim and if it can be achieved I am sure the result will be worthwhile.

Almost always development and improvement of an area follows (a) the provision of a proper mains water supply and (b) the provision of adequate sewerage and sewage disposal facilities. The provision of these two essentials has been energetically carried out by the Authorities concerned in this area over the past few years. Particular praise is due to the Scarborough Corporation Water Authority for the schemes they have implemented to provide a proper mains supply in the very rural parts of this area such as Hackness, Suffield Harwood Dale etc.

I regret that the remarks I made regarding general public health work in my 1965 report apply with even more force this year and that it has not yet proved possible to increase the staffing establishment to deal more effectively with the Council's responsibilities in relation to such matters as Housing, Food Hygiene, Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act, etc. A great deal of work in these fields needs to be done.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Chairmen of the Council and the Committees, the Councillors, my staff and all my colleagues, for the co-operation and ready assistance they have given during the year.

HOUSING

(a) New Housing

209 new houses were completed by private enterprise during the year compared with 247 during 1965, the decrease probably reflecting Government financial policy introduced during the early part of the year. By the end of the year the number of new houses commenced and planned was again on the increase and it is anticipated that the figures for 1967 will show 1966 to be merely a pause in the expanding programme of new house construction.

The Council's scheme for the provision of 12 two bedroomed bungalows at Beck Lane, Cloughton was commenced during the year. The units are designed to provide suitable accommodation for elderly persons and the first seven should be ready for occupation early in 1967 with the remainder towards the end of the year.

More of this type of accommodation is required in this area and, although the scheme to build a block of four single bedroomed flats at Seamer did not proceed during the year, prospects arose of a considerably larger Seamer development.

(b) Improvement Grants

Eleven applications for discretionary grants and seven applications for standard grants were approved during 1966. This is less than usual, but again the effects of the credit squeeze must be borne in mind and the figures for 1967 will doubtless show an improvement. Every effort is made to encourage owners to take advantage of the grant schemes, but real results will not be achieved until it proves possible to carry out a village by village survey followed by appropriate action.

The total number of grants approved by the Council since the Acts came into force is now 326 and this is quite a good record when viewed on "a percentage of houses in the area" basis.

(c) Action under the Housing Act, 1957

Number of houses inspected for defects	10
Number of houses unfit for human habitation:-	
(a) In clearance areas	NIL
(b) Number of houses closed	NIL
(c) In respect of which undertakings were accepted	4
Number of houses capable of repair	NIL
Number of unfit houses made fit by informal action	2
Number of houses demolished	NIL
Number of inspections made	72

In addition the Council received schemes to renovate nine houses which were formally the subject of undertakings and stated that on satisfactory completion of the works detailed in the schemes, the undertakings would be cancelled. One Closing Order was revoked consequent on the house being made fit for human habitation.

BUILDING AND OTHER NEW DEVELOPMENT

On the 1st February, 1966 the Building Regulations, 1965, for the administration of which the Council is responsible, came into operation, entirely replacing the old Building Bye-laws.

Between the 1st February and the end of the year 263 Building Regulations applications were received and dealt with. 242 were approved and 21 disapproved. Before making a recommendation to a Committee of a decision on an application, every effort is made to notify applicants of any points in which their application shows contravention of the Regulations and they are given an opportunity to amend their proposals accordingly. If it were not for this procedure at least 50% of the applications would have been rejected. As knowledge of the rather complex Regulations becomes more widespread this percentage is slowly reducing.

The Regulations have two particular effects on Local Authorities. Firstly, much more time must be spent on examining applications and recommending a decision thereon and, secondly, proper administration of the Regulations demands much more inspectorial and supervisory work whilst the building is being erected.

For example, new drains and sewers now should be inspected and tested when laid in the open trench and also after the work has been back-filled and foundations should be inspected before and after concreting.

This Council also receives Planning Applications from its area for onward transmission to the Planning Authority at Whitby. The Council's Planning Sub-Committee considers all such applications and notifies its views thereon to the Planning Authority. 251 Planning applications were received and dealt with in this way during the year.

WATER SUPPLIES

The bulk of the population of the rural district is supplied by the statutory water undertaking, the Scarborough Corporation. The Corporation has continued with the provision of a mains water supply to Harwood Dale, Broxa, Suffield and Silpho and also improvements to the supply to Staintondale. The majority of private supplies serving these areas should be taken over early in 1967.

In the latter part of the year a thorough investigation of the water supply to the village of Staintondale was carried out. The supply gave unsatisfactory results on bacteriological examination and, due to the condition of the distributing mains, insufficient water was being received at the properties served by the supply. Ultimately, the Council took action with a view to the entire closing down of the Private Water Company supply and the provision of a Corporation mains supply to all the properties involved. Progress in implementing this was being made at the end of the year.

3,880 houses were connected to the mains water supply by the end of the year. Of five samples of water submitted for bacteriological examination, two were satisfactory and three unsatisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

1. General

The Seamer Regional Sewage Disposal Scheme deals with a large part of the Council's area and, as the Works are overloaded by something like 100% the Council has given instructions to Consultants for a scheme to be prepared for suitable extensions to the Works. A scheme for the Council's consideration was almost completed by the end of the year. As usual, the overloading of the Works first showed itself in the sludge drying and disposal facilities becoming completely inadequate to deal with the amount of sludge produced and the Council gave instructions for the installation of a Davey Paxman Sludge Concentrator to cope with this. This should be completed during 1967. The overloading of the Seamer Works during summer months became so bad that it was virtually impossible to produce a consistently satisfactory effluent and the complete extension of these Works is now a matter of urgency.

The Burniston Sewage Treatment Works which deals with the flow from Burniston and Cloughton continued to operate satisfactorily.

Cloughton Newlands, Hackness, Suffield, Harwood Dale, Staintondale, Troutsdale and Langdale End are without sewerage systems but of these only Hackness and Cloughton Newlands can be considered for provision with proper sewage disposal facilities in the foreseeable future.

2. Connections to sewers.

Of the 209 new houses erected during the year, 208 were connected to the Council's sewers, and at the end of the year, a total of 3,086 houses were connected. The connection to the sewers of properties formerly discharging foul drainage direct to streams and ditches is of considerable benefit to the area and in each village there are a number of properties which could and ought to be connected to the sewer. The work of persuading owners to make connections to the sewer can only be done by a systematic village by village approach which is not possible at the present time.

Statistics relating to water carriage system of drainage:-

Number of houses with water carriage system	3,847
Number of houses without water carriage system	189
Number of conversions to water carriage system during 1966	8

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are 48 caravan sites licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 containing a total of 2,000 caravans. During 1966 licensing conditions were generally complied with.

In addition two sites are licensed for a total of 142 tents and these sites are fulfilling a need for this type of accommodation. In my 1965 report I stated that the area was becoming increasingly popular for weekend campers and in the holiday period considerable numbers of tent campers invaded the area. Experience during the summer of 1966 reinforced this view and I am firmly of the opinion that, if proper and much needed control over this state of affairs is to be instituted, further licensed and properly run sites will have to be provided.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS (CONTINUED)

Such sites could be provided either by the local authority or by private land owners. In my opinion, there is an excellent case for the provision and operation of sites by the local authority. On a national basis the immediate and pressing need is for the introduction of legislation which would treat tented camping sites in the same way as caravan sites. From a public health point of view there is very little difference between the two.

During the year 203 visits of inspection were made in connection with moveable dwellings of all kinds. These included routine inspections of licensed sites and inspections in connection with contraventions of the present legal provisions.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The refuse collection arrangements continued on the same basis as during 1965. The Council did however, order a new 50 cubic yard Crushload refuse collection vehicle for delivery in early 1967 when it is intended to extend the existing weekly collection area and to retire the older existing vehicle to standby and for collection on caravan sites during the summer.

At the present time a weekly collection is given in the parishes of East and West Ayten, Seamer, Irton, Cayton, Gristhorpe, Lebberston and Hutton Buseel together with the larger caravan sites during the summer months, approximately 70% of the population being in the weekly collection area. The rest of the area receives a fortnightly collection. It is hoped that the Council will be able to make steady progress towards instituting a weekly collection in all but the very rural parts of the area over the next few years.

During the year the service operated well and on no occasion was a round not completed on time. The approximate weight of refuse collected during the year was 2,580 tons.

The three tips at Seamer, Burniston and Brompton operated reasonably well during the year although better results could be achieved with more suitable equipment. The three sites between them will not provide much more tipping capacity and, before the end of 1967, a decision on further refuse disposal methods and facilities will have to be made, bearing in mind that controlled tipping is rapidly becoming an outdated mode of refuse disposal. At the end of the year a complete report on refuse collection and disposal was being prepared for the Council's consideration in early 1967.

FOOD HYGIENE

Business	Numbers	No. fitted to comply with Reg. 16*	No. to which Reg. 19 Applies*	No. fitted to Comply with Reg. 19*
Grocers	40	28	40	39
Butchers	10	6	10	10
Fish & Chips	5	2	4	4
Catering	39	32	39	39
Licensed Premises	28	15	26	26

*of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

FOOD HYGIENE (CONTINUED)

46 inspections were carried out, 14 unsatisfactory conditions found and improvements effected.

44 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Although an effort was made to carry out more work on Food Hygiene during the year (in previous years virtually nothing has been done) it proved impossible to give this responsibility the attention it deserves and, indeed, must have.

At the end of the year statutory action was pending in respect of eight contraventions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 at a butcher's shop in the area. This was the only case during the year where statutory action for contravention of the Regulations became a real probability.

MEAT INSPECTION AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are four licensed slaughterhouses within the Rural District, three being privately owned and the other owned and operated by the Scarborough Corporation. In respect of the Corporation abattoir, the Council has an arrangement with the Scarborough Corporation for meat inspection and the administration of the relevant Regulations to be carried out by the Corporations officers, an appropriate financial arrangement between the two authorities being made.

The rest of the comments and statistics in this section of the report relate only to the three private slaughterhouses aforementioned. The slaughterhouses receive regular inspections in addition to meat inspection visits and ten contraventions of the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 were noted and remedied. No contraventions of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1953 came to light. The slaughterhouses only have a relatively small throughput and generally during the year were operated to an adequate standard.

The following statistics are given:-

Number of meat inspection visits	317
Number of animals inspected	1,466
Weight of meat considered unfit for human consumption	520 lbs.

Further information is given in Appendix 'B'.

PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES

This sector provided the usual wide variety during the year and demands patient and time absorbing work. 78 inspections were carried out and 12 nuisances were found. It proved possible to remedy them all.

At the end of the year the Health and Housing Committee had recommended that the necessary proceedings under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, should be instituted in respect of a nuisance arising from a small piggery in the area and this recommendation was awaiting confirmation by the Council.

Again the problem of the satisfactory and nuisance free disposal of effluent from large piggeries created complaints. The problem arises particularly where intensive methods of pig keeping are employed and is affecting many areas of the country. Unfortunately, there appears to be no satisfactory answer at the present time.

PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES (CONTINUED)

Economics dictate intensive farming methods but unfortunately do not permit utilisation of the only existing effective means of overcoming the odour nuisance, as the cost of using the chemical deodorising agent involved is far too high to merit even a moments consideration. For the time being, it seems that one can only rely on the co-operation of the farmer to spread the sludge at places and times and in such weather conditions that a nuisance will be least likely to occur.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1960

The problems with which this Act is meant to deal do not often occur in this area. The area has one lime burning plant where there is the possibility of trouble, but at the present time the plant operates on mixed feed firing of the kilns and this is more or less smokeless.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

During the year an attempt was made to commence administration of this Act, but only 27 visits were made. Again arrangements will have to be made to make real progress with this work at an early date.

RODENT CONTROL

Details of treatments carried out during the year are as follows:-

TABLE I

Complaints received	91
Number of treatments carried out:	
(a) Rats	244
(b) Mice	9
Number of bodies recovered	1,481
Estimated kill	5,234
Rechargeable properties treated	47

TABLE II

Minor infestation (19 rats and under)

Sewers	0
Surface	2
Private Dwellings	168
Rechargeable properties	7

Major infestation (20 rats and over)

Sewers	0
Surface	16
Private Dwellings	15
Rechargeable properties	36

Appendix 'A' to the Annual Report for the year
ended 31st December, 1966

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of
the Factories Act, 1961.

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to Health
(including inspections by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspection (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which S. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.'s.	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (a) in which S.7 is enforced by L.A.'s.	73	36	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which S.7 is enforced by the L.A. (Excluding out- workers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	73	36	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:- NIL
3. Part VIII of the Act - Outwork (Section 110 & 111) NIL

Appendix 'B' to Report to the Medical Officer of
Health for the year ended 31st December, 1966

Meat Inspections and Condemnations				
	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	365	-	1,075	26
Number Inspected	365	-	1,075	26
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	3	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	17	-	10	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	4.66%	-	1.21%	8%
Tuberculosis only:-				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
